

**“This I Believe”: Patchwork Assessment**  
**Patchwork 3: The Essay**

*Koh Han Yi, 301*  
*3 March 2011*

Goals. Everyone has heard of them. In school, we're asked to set our goals for our exams. At the beginning of the year, we set our New Year resolutions, but whether we actually keep to them is a different matter altogether. It is obvious that goals will keep popping up in our lives regardless of whether we like it or not. Goals. What do they really mean to you?

To me, goals play an imperative role in life.

Like every other child when I was young, I had a wide range of ambitions. I wanted to be a policewoman, in the footsteps of my father who was once a police officer. Then I wanted to be a teacher because I somehow found enjoyment in the simple task of marking my own work during primary school. There was a point of time when I really wanted to be a palaeontologist. That was after my father had bought a small “slab of cement” and we had proceeded to slowly dig out the small, synthetic “dinosaur fossil” hidden inside.

Since drawing is one of my greatest passions, it has undeniably played a part in shaping my ambition countless times. One of the first few ambitions I had was to be an artist. In the end, I was put off by the stereotype that many artists lived lonely and miserable lives, gaining fame only after death. After the artist came the architect, but the thought of frequent visits to dusty, noisy construction sites made the fickle me strike off yet another short-lived ambition.

However, with age came maturity. As I grew older, I realised that with such rapidly changing ideas of my future, I would never be able to set any definite goals, and never be able to work towards what I truly wanted to be.

Now, I am relatively positive of which path I want to take in the future. Science, especially Biology, has always been one of my favourite subjects. Perhaps this is why I feel encouraged to become a doctor when I grow up, although I have not quite decided what kind of doctor I want to be. However, I am sure the day will come when I have to make this literally life-changing decision.

Cliché and common as it sounds, doctors (from your friendly family doctor to the surgeon in the emergency room) save, if not at least change people's everyday lives. This is my goal, one out of the many I have had and will make in my entire life. Given my passion for Biology, I can at least say that I am no longer going in circles.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said, “The important thing is to strive towards a goal which is not immediately visible. That goal is not the concern of the mind, but of the spirit.” In life, one must set goals, put the past behind him, and most importantly, keep moving forward no matter what happens.

Goals are what shape the lives of you and I. This, I believe.

Word Count: 505 words